

The word "LEADER" is written in white, bold, uppercase letters inside a green arrow-shaped graphic pointing to the right. The background of the slide is a gradient from green to blue with abstract circular patterns.

**LEADER**

# **LEADER in Finland**

## **COVID-19 and planning the future**

LEADER Thematic Lab, 14<sup>th</sup> January 2021

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# LEADER in Finland 2014-2020 & 2021-2022

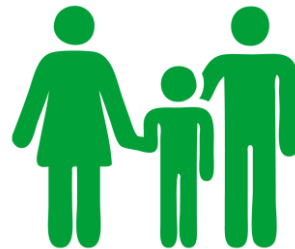


54 rural LAGs  
+ 1 in Åland

100 %



All of rural population



Per LAG  
14 000-123 000 inhabitants,  
average 50 000



Total public funding  
300 M€

+ 83 M€ in  
2021-2022



Per LAG  
3-11 M€  
= 5,5 M€ on average

+ 1,5 M€ on average



# LEADER's potential role in post-COVID recovery an during the transitional period

- LAG's continue to implement their LDS's
  - Planned transitional period funding for LEADER **83 M€ in 2021-2022** = 1,5 M€ per LAG on average (EU 42%, national 38%, municipalities 20%)
  - No recovery package funding for LEADER
- The potential role is diverse
  - LAG's fund the development and start up of businesses and services.
  - Flexibility for ongoing projects: extension of implementation time, functions moved to the net.
  - LAG's guide small enterprises to apply for recovery funding from regional authorities, municipalities and Business Finland.



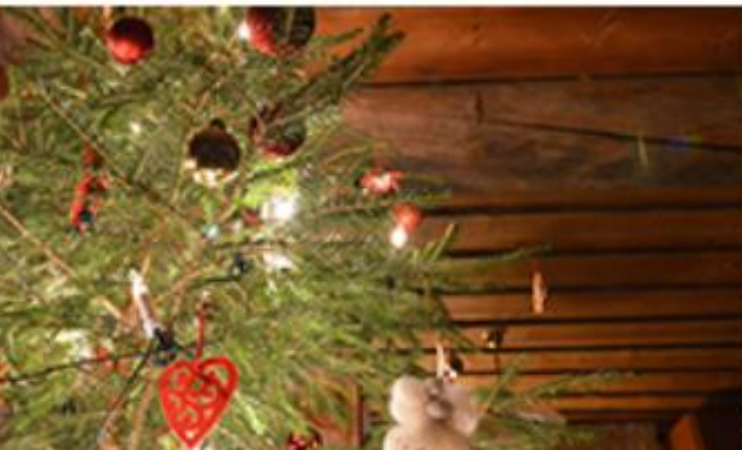


[www.saimaalive.com](http://www.saimaalive.com) – example of a small entrepreneur who sells eg. virtual tours in the lakeland Saimaa area for japanese customers

ライン特別版!!

# ゆきえと北欧まちあるき旅

フィンランド湖水地方で過ごすクリスマス編





## Lessons learnt

# Working together

- **All areas** covered with LAGs
- Strong **support for LEADER** by the administration – at the same time respecting the bottom-up approach
- Forums and clear practices for **dialogue** between the administration and LAGs
- **NRN** facilitates networking, capacity building, exchange and experimenting new ideas
- **Trust**; stronger network between LAGs – MA – PA & local – regional – national level
- COVID → **Flexibility** is needed in project implementation





# Key elements of LEADER 2023-2027

## Thematic scope

- Development of services and villages
- Business development
- Investments
- Business start up
- Cooperation
- Smart villages

## Possible new themes / tools

- "Start-up agriculture", farm diversification
- New tools for biodiversity and climate actions

## Capacity and resources in LAGs

- Ensuring **sufficient and equitable resources** for all LAGs
- 20 000-150 000 inhabitants in LAG area
- NRN & MA organises **support for management of change** for merging LAGs and LAGs with area adjustments

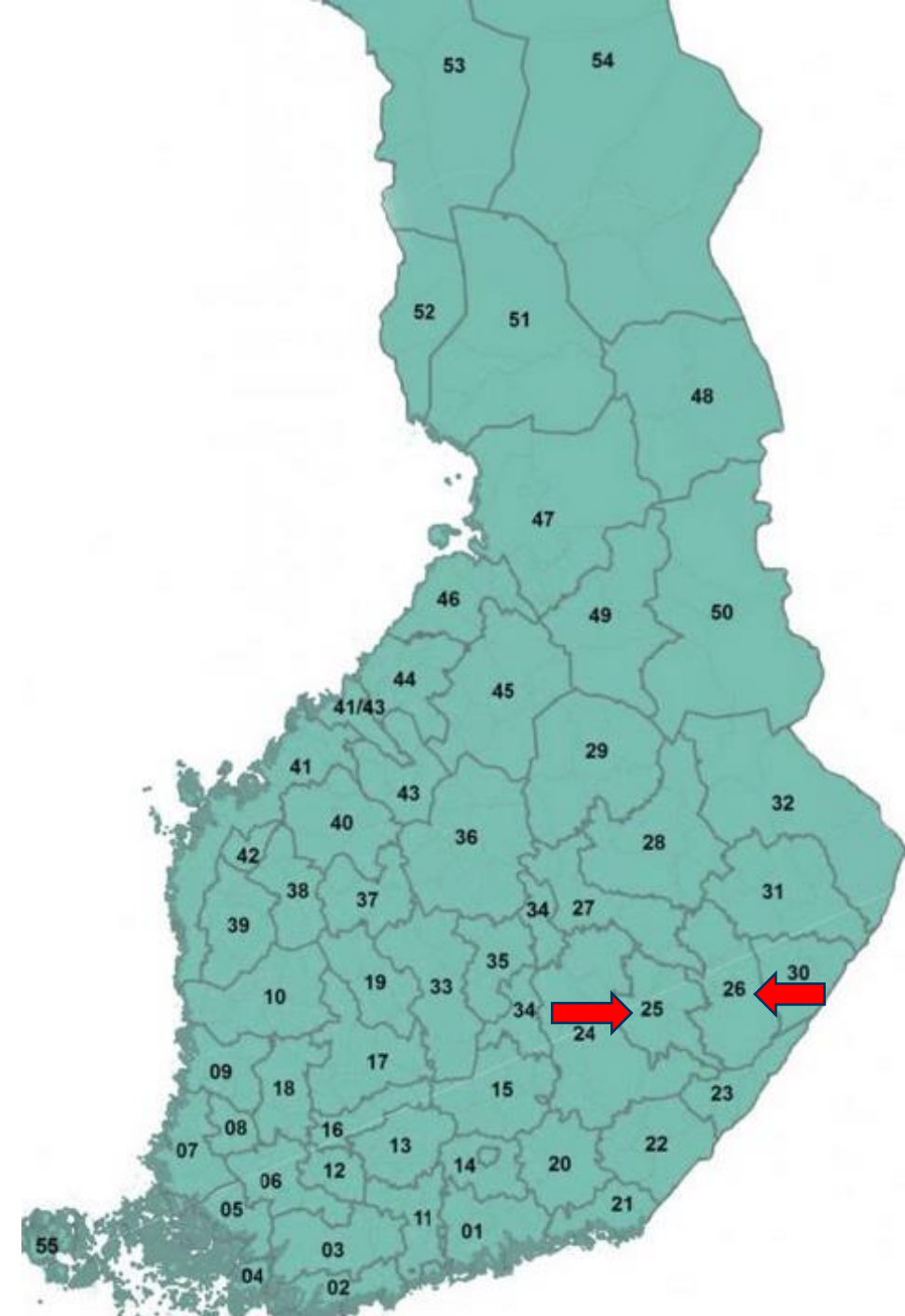
## Networking

- Better networking means better quality and results
- **Dynamic Network Analysis** as a new method to engage new actors, stakeholders and broaden the network
- NRN & MA organises capacity building for LAGs to prepare the dynamic networks analysis



# LAGs Rajupusu & Piällysmies

- Two neighbouring small LAGs in Eastern Finland; about 37 000 inhabitants together during the current period (Rajupusu 18 700, Piällysmies 18 300)
- Alone in the future does not reach the ministry's demand of minimum 20 000 inhabitants per LAG area
- Preliminary discussions about co-operation already in autumn 2019 between LAG boards
- Motivation for co-operation:
  - Similarities in strategies; tourism, youth, development of villages, business development
  - Similarities in the working cultures, same kind of areas and municipalities (except Savonlinna town)
  - Same economical area
  - Long history in joint projects
  - Trust and willingness to change and development in LAGs and municipalities
- Goals and targets for merging of the two LAGs
  - Sufficient resources (both financial as well as human) for the merged LAGs
  - Stronger role in regional development; new co-operation methods, networks, connections, ideas
  - Increasing awareness about Leader approach and method in the area





**Thank you!**



**For ideas on a human scale!**

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